

Regular Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Pocomoke City Mayor and Council was held in Council Chambers on Monday, August 14, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:33 pm.

Present: Mayor Todd J. Nock
First Vice President: Esther Troast
Council Members: R. Scott Holland, Diane Downing
and Monda Marsh
Interim City Manager: John Psota
City Attorney: Andrew Illuminati
City Clerk: Michelle Beckett-El Soloh

Pledge of Allegiance, Prayer by Reverend Jones and Call to Order

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of June 5, 2023:

Motion to approve minutes for June 5, 2023 as written (Troast, Holland passed)

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Holland-aye, Downing-aye, Marsh-aye; none opposed, motion carried

Review and Approval Current Bill List:

Motion to approve the bill list (Holland, Troast passed)

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Holland-aye, Downing-aye, Marsh-aye; none opposed, motion carried

Approve Hunting on City Property for James Telford

Mr. James Telford came forward to ask permission to hunt on the same property that he has hunted for the last several years on the city property located off Broad St.

Motion to approve James Telford to hunt on property located on Broad St for the 2023-24 season (Holland, Troast passed)

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Holland-aye, Downing-aye, Marsh-aye; none opposed, motion carried

Approve ARPA Funds for Police Service Vehicles

Chief Hancock said that in the last few years the department has been able to make some improvements in the last 2 ½ years but are still working with 7 vehicles with 200,000+ miles and some over 12 years old. He is proposing to replace 3 vehicles with Dodge Durangos and has provided all paperwork to the Interim City Manager. He is proposing these vehicles because they were about \$3,000 less per vehicle than Ford Explorer and these were readily available. He has spoken with other agencies that use the same vehicle and there are no complaints regarding their service and are durable. They would be outfitted for patrol and one would be a K9 vehicle. One K9 will retire in approximately 2 years, for that reason only one vehicle needs to be outfitted for K9 accommodation. The price per vehicle is \$40,133.00. years ago, the department purchased a Dodge Charger for \$26,000 and less than 10 months later, the same car was \$39,000. That is what is happening with vehicles right now. The expense to outfit vehicles is \$16,996.00 for the K9 and the other two are \$10,089.29 each. With the outfitting and striping the total would be \$161,173.98. We would pay Hertrich and Bluetech separately and order the equipment and all the work should be done by October. Mayor Nock thanked Chief for the documentation that was turned in. It answered all questions. He also

wanted to know if it was customary to get four key fobs. Chief said no, usually the department gets two but the state contract lists four. Chief doesn't feel that four are needed. Councilmember Downing wanted to know what other agencies use these vehicles. Chief said Somerset Sheriff's office and Snow Hill use them. Councilmember Troast also thanked Chief for all the information that was turned in and realizes that these vehicles have been needed for quite some time. Councilmember Marsh also thanked Chief for his due diligence for saving the city money and still providing services to the community.

Motion to purchase three Dodge Durangos, outfitting and striping with ARPA funds (holland, Troast passed)

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Holland-aye, Downing-aye, Marsh-aye; none opposed, motion carried

Chief Hancock said that in the past two years since he has been Chief, the city has purchased 9 vehicles that have needed to be replaced all due to the help of the Mayor & Council.

Comments from Council

Councilmember Troast said today is the 100th anniversary of the purchase of the first motorized pumper that was purchased after the fire in 1922. Tonight, it will be pumped to commemorate this anniversary. The public is invited and there will be an open house event. She has also been making crab cakes at the Little League. She has enjoyed spending a few days with them to volunteer. Next year, Pocomoke will sponsor two teams. Travis Cowger does an amazing job with Little League.

Councilmember Holland thanked the Fairgrounds for all the events and hard work for the Fair. There were some hot days. There is a Concert in the Park event this Thursday.

Councilmember Marsh wished to recognize the mayor & Council. She doesn't think people realize how well they are represented and how tirelessly they work behind the scenes. We have agricultural, small business and retail, restaurant and bar, academia and county government very well represented. No one has a personal agenda or caters to any special group. It is much different sitting in the audience, than what actually goes on behind the scenes. They represent the whole town. The days of conducting business through the back door has ended in this town. She is proud to be on the Council and also is proud of the rest of her colleagues.

Comments from the Mayor

He is excited to announce that the city is almost ready to kick-off the replacement of the water meters project. It is something that has needed to be done. He is also announcing the cleanup of Willow Street. Those buildings will be demolished soon as part of the cleanup effort. He had the honor to take a walk with some of the other Councilmembers. Things really look different on foot.

Comments from Interim City Manager

Mr. Psota said both the Mayor and Councilmember Marsh were spot on with their comments and it's been an honor to serve with them.

Comments from Audience

Mr. Richard Thomas said he transplanted here from Pennsylvania a year ago. They have an autistic son and were looking for a better place to raise him. Earlier he called with a traffic complaint affecting

children on his street. The City Clerk took care of it immediately and he commended her for that. He is wondering if there is something that could be done with the flooding on 8th Street. Councilmember Marsh said there is a reportconcerns@pocomokemd.gov email that has been established and is monitored regularly. Mr. Thomas said the neighbors have the same concerns about flooding so he decided to come to the council meeting. Public Works Director, Bill East, said he agrees that something needs to be done and he already has a plan for the situation. The Mayor suggested that he and Mr. Psota consult on how to resolve the issue.

Reverend Jones said that he had forwarded an invitation to the Mayor but hasn't heard back yet but would like him to attend. It is a banquet to award people of the community who are pioneers and trailblazers. It helps to support organizations. Mayor Nock said his mailbox is checked three times per week and it has not been received. If he could forward it again, he will certainly respond.

Motion to adjourn meeting and hold closed session (Holland, Downing passed)

Acclamation: Troast-aye, Holland-aye, Downing-aye, Marsh-aye; none opposed, motion carried

Approved: K.M. Beckett-El Soloh/
City Clerk